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FOOD INFORMATION CALENDAR

OFFICE OF INFORMATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

March 1, 1946

No. 152

APPEAL TO 1946 GARDENERS. . . . After conferring with Secretary Anderson, President Truman last week issued an initial appeal to the Nation's home gardeners to continue growing and conserving all food possible to help replace food which is especially needed for shipping abroad. In line with this appeal, Secretary Anderson plans to call a conference of national garden leaders soon. He established a Departmental Committee on Home Gardening on February 26 (Memo. No. 1150) consisting of the following from the various agencies as indicated: Paul C. Stark, Director of the Food Distribution Programs Branch of PMA--Chairman of the committee; H. W. Hochbaum, and M. L. Wilson of Extension Service; D. A. FitzGerald, N. E. Dodd, J. B. Hasselman, and E. A. Meyer of PMA; P. N. Annand of BE&PQ; D. B. Lasseter of FSA; Hazel K. Steibling of BHN&HE; R. M. Salter of BPISAE; E. G. Moore of ARA; and Keith Himebaugh, Director of Information.

President Truman summarized the value of gardening thus: "A continuing program of gardening will be of great benefit to our people. In addition to the contribution gardens make to better nutrition, their value in providing outdoor physical exercise, recreation, and relaxation from the strain of modern life is widely recognized. The Department of Agriculture through a long-time garden program can do much to encourage more attractive home surroundings and improved community development, and can provide a large body of citizens with much needed assistance in home gardening."

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NAT'L REA COOP MEETING. . . . The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, of which most of the 879 REA-financed cooperatives are members, will have its annual convention in Buffalo, N. Y., March 4, 5, and 6. Managers and directors of member cooperatives will take stock of the present situation in rural electrification and plan for the tremendous program of consumer connections that is in prospect as soon as line construction materials become readily available.

Secretary Anderson will address the delegates March 4, speaking on the place of cooperatives in the modern economic world. REA Administrator Claude R. Wickard, speaking March 5, will discuss local, state, and national problems confronting REA borrowers, with emphasis on the responsibility of REA-financed cooperatives for complete electrification of rural America. Other prominent leaders in the country will also be heard at the convention.

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SECRETARY ANDERSON is scheduled to address the American Society of Bakery Engineers in national conference at Chicago, March 11. . . .

ASS'T SEC. BRANNAN will address the Rotary Club, Hagerstown, Md., March 13, on the subject "Economic Outlook for Agriculture."

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IMPORTANT FOOD ACTIONS. . . . President Truman's latest move in the food crisis took concrete form March 1 as he conferred with 13 "public-spirited citizens" called in by him to help work out an "aggressive campaign" for a voluntary reduction in food consumption in the United States. On February 28 representatives of the various government agencies concerned with food conservation held a meeting to work out further plans. Important actions taken by the Department in the food crisis since announcement of revised production goals last week include:

1. Fixing the 1946 grower support price on soybeans at the 1945 level, Press Release 408.
2. Extending the Dairy Payment Program from March 30 through June 30, 1946, Press Release 409.
3. Requiring processors to set aside (under WFO-9) 5 percent of their March production of soybean, cottonseed, linseed, and peanut meal and ship it to States which are short of their equitable share of protein meal. So far shipments have been directed to these 27 States: Maine, Vt., R. I., Ky., Mich., Md., Va., W. Va., N. C., Tenn., Ala., Ark., Fla., La., Miss., Okla., S. C., Tex., Calif., Colo., Idaho, Kan., Nev., N. Mex., Ore., Utah, and Wyo. (Press Release 427).
4. Prohibiting use of grain in the production of ethyl and butyl alcohol, under WFO-141 amended, unless authorized by the Assistant Administrator of PMA. (Press Release 424).
5. Discontinuing as of April 1 the emergency quota of 4% on fats and oils for manufacture of shortening, salad and cooking oils, effective since October 1945 under WFO-42.

A background statement on revised production goals is planned for distribution next week to PMA people concerned and to some other Department groups. It outlines world food needs (the why of the revised goals), the changes in production requested; explains the livestock feed problem and transportation difficulties, and tells what government actions have been taken so far toward making the best possible use of available food and feed supplies.

The most significant changes in production goals requested by Secretary Anderson are; Increase of soybean acreage by 1,100,000; wheat, by 1,000,000; corn, by 1,000,000 in the Corn Belt, plus additional acreages of corn and grain sorghums in other areas; and smooth, dry edible peas, by 100,000 acres.

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FIVE MORE ANNUAL REPORTS are now available. They are those of the Office of Experiment Stations, BAI, BDI, BE&PQ, and BPISAE. They explain many types of research and experimentation conducted during 1945 and some results obtained.

AGRICULTURAL LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS. . . . Feb. 21, the House passed the school lunch bill; the House Ways and Means Committee reported a bill to authorize condemnation of unfit materials to be used in process or renovated butter; the Senate confirmed the nomination of Paul Porter as Price Administrator; Feb. 26, the Senate passed the school lunch bill and sent it to conference; Feb. 27, the House Appropriations Committee reported the agricultural appropriation bill; the House Appropriations Committee reported an appropriation rescission bill which contains an item for emergency supplies for the territories; the House debated the Patman housing bill providing for price control and subsidies; the Senate passed a measure authorizing subsidies for the 1946 programs; the Senate debated the urgent deficiency appropriation bill which includes a million dollar loan authorization for REA but restricts its use for generating plants, and appropriations for OPA, and CPA.

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MORE TIPS FOR GOOD WRITING. . . . Write on subjects for the purpose of educating yourself if you would write understandable prose, T. Swann Harding, of the Office of Information, told members of the Connecticut Extension Service Publications Workshop in a recent address entitled "Translating Agricultural Research Into Readable Newswriting." Thinking of the initial paragraph is highly import, Mr. Harding also told them. "Very often subject matter will writhe about lazily in your head for days before spontaneous combustion occurs, animation sets in, and you begin to reel off a bang-up initial paragraph. Then the whole thing suddenly takes form." he continues. Copies of the 10-page address may be obtained from the Office of Information.

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LATEST TFT PLATTERS. . . . Timely Farm Topics No. 54 contains the following: "Tall Story About Corn," discussed by Dr. Byron T. Shaw of ARA, and John Baker, Chief of USDA Radio Service, and "Farm Loans for Veterans" discussed by Robt. W. Hudgens, Associate Farm Security Administrator and John Baker. . . . TFT No. 55: Sir John Boyd Orr, Director General of FAO and John Baker discuss "FAO and American Farmers;" other side of the platter: "Treat Seed Grain This Year." John Baker discusses treatment of cereal crop seeds before planting.

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USDA RADIO SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 9

NATIONAL FARM AND HOME HOUR. . . . Summary of USDA news of the week for farm listeners, entitled "Department of Agriculture Headlines."

AMERICAN FARMER. . . . John Baker's report for farmers, "The Business Side of Farming." Also fifteen-minute participation by the Department on 4-H Club Week. The program will pick up from San Francisco, Chicago, New York, and Washington, with 4-H members from various States discussing goals and activities of the Club for 1946.

CONSUMER TIME. . . . Dramatized show on why it's necessary for Americans to plant gardens this year. Prominent guest to be announced.

USDA RELEASES OF SPECIAL INTEREST. . . . Secretary Anderson asks for increase in cotton textiles--378; Dixon Merritt, REA editor, retires--383; Cotton classification and market news service--384; Change in set aside credit for rice to territories--389; Grain stocks smaller in chief exporting countries--394; Secretary Anderson asks revision of 1946 production goals--397; Linseed oil inventories limited to 4-month supply (WFO 124)--404; Support price of 1946 crop soybeans announced--408; Dairy production payments continued through June--409; International cotton study group concludes work--416; WFO 51 authorization required for molasses users--417; Fat-oils quota reduced to meet need abroad--423; Amended order prohibits use of grain in industrial alcohol--424; March protein meal set aside is 5 percent of production--427.

RECENT USDA PUBLICATIONS. . . . Cold Storage for Apples and Pears, Circ. No. 740, 61 p.; Effect of Variety, Location, and Season on Oil, Protein, and Fuzz of Cottonseed and on Fiber Properties of Lint, Tech. Bul. No. 903, 41 p.

